



BOROUGH OF OSSETT.

1920.

—
FORTY-SEVENTH

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

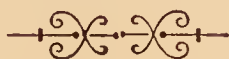
W. L. RENÉ WOOD, ESQ.

Together with the

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES.



OSSETT:

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Sanitary Committee, 1920.

Chairman:

COUNCILLOR M. MARSH.

Members:

ALDERMAN J. H. NETTLETON,

„ H. ROBINSON,

„ T. W. BENTLEY,

„ G. F. WILSON,

COUNCILLOR D. H. ARCHER,

„ P. J. BOOTH,

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„ D. B. BROADHEAD,

„ J. H. HARTLEY,

„ J. T. MARSDEN,

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„ D. PICKERSGILL,

„ A. RENSHAW,

„ E. SOWDEN,

„ S. B. STEAD.

TO THE SANITARY AUTHORITY OF THE BOROUGH OF OSSETT.

GENTLEMEN,

In presenting this, the 47th Annual Report on the health and sanitary conditions of the Borough, I take a new departure to conform with the suggestions made in a recent memorandum from the Ministry of Health.

The vital statistics for the year are the most favourable ever recorded in the district. The wet summer probably accounted for the very small number of cases of infantile diarrhoea and the year was remarkably free from epidemics of infectious diseases.

It is satisfactory to report the continued interest taken by the mothers in our "Welfare." I consider this is doing very admirable work and the anticipated further developments should have gratifying results.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.—Population at the census of 1911, 14,081. Estimated for 1920 (Registrar-General's return), 15,274.

The last figure must necessarily be fictitious, the average number of inhabitants per house being increased by unavoidable overcrowding, which has been but little relieved as yet, save by insidious emigration due to variations in local trade. Migration into the district was considerable during the latter years of the war. All available factors lead me to the conclusion that the figure is near although probably a little below the mark.

PHYSICAL FEATURES AND GENERAL CHARACTER OF THE DISTRICT.—The Borough of Ossett is a widely scattered district, with houses built in groups at considerable distances apart. It consists to a considerable extent of agricultural

land and comprises an area of 3,200 acres. The district is elevated, the highest point being at Gawthorpe, to the N.W. about 400ft. above sea-level. The Central portion of the town is 300ft. high. The Northern part slopes gradually to the N.E., draining into Bushy Beck. On the West, the slope is more abrupt, to the Chickenley and Pildacre Becks. The Southern boundary is formed by the River Calder, flowing from W. to E., towards which the land slopes rapidly. There is a more gradual inclination in the direction of the South-Eastern boundary to Whitley Spring Beck. Outfall sewage works are situated at Healey and the Spa and to these points the sewage of the district is conveyed by gravitation.

The Geological formation belongs to the coal measure series and consists of sandstone and shale, with beds of coal. Sandstone rock crowns the summits of the various elevations and the surface soil partakes of the nature of the underlying rock, being sandy and stoney, but it is clayey in parts when it is derived from the disintegration of shale.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.—Ossett is primarily an industrial town. The staple industry consists in the making of shoddy and mungo. The rag trade is responsible for the employment of a large proportion of the inhabitants, and this involves a very considerable amount of female labour. No ill effects to health can be attributed to this industry, although the presence of free Chlorine and Sulphurous acid in the air as the result of carbonizing of rags is distinctly injurious to vegetable life. A destructive change takes place in the teeth of those most directly in contact with carbonizing and this may possibly account to some extent for the generally bad state of teeth noticed in the inhabitants. The remainder of the workers amongst the population find employment in the coal mines and a small percentage in agriculture.

RATEABLE VALUE.—The rateable value of property within the Borough amounts to £62,514 0s. 0d. A penny rate realises the sum of £235.

PARLIAMENTARY VOTERS.—The number of voters on the Parliamentary Register for Ossett for the year 1921 is: Autumn Register, Local Government 6,232; Parliamentary 7,365.

POOR-LAW RELIEF.—The amount expended in outdoor relief in the Borough during the year ending December 31st, 1920, was £1,681 17s. 2d. Apart from the Poor-law, gratuitous medical relief is obtained from the Dewsbury and Wakefield Hospitals. Further gratuitous medical relief is also obtained from the Bradford and Leeds Infirmaries in some cases.

METEOROLOGY.—Rainfall for the year: January 3.00 ins., February 2.12, March 1.67, April 2.46, May 6.19, June 2.01, July 4.72, August 1.18, September 1.40, October 1.72, November 1.06, December 2.95, Total 30.48.

The average daily temperature for the year was 47.5 degrees Fahr. The prevailing wind is westerly, it being in this direction for about nine months in the year.

WATER SUPPLY.—The water supply is obtained from the Dewsbury and Heckmondwike Water Board. It is upland and moorland water of high organic purity, collected in a series of reservoirs at Dunford Bridge in the Penistone moors, and drawn

off by a process of decantation. The solid matter occasionally found is quite harmless, being due to particles of peaty substance. Frequent analyses give highly satisfactory results. Being very soft it is artificially hardened before distribution to lessen its plumbo-solvent action. No cases of lead-poisoning have been recorded for many years.

The supply has been fairly constant, and except under exceptional circumstances little curtailing of the daily supply has been found necessary. The amount available is 3,286,000 gallons per week, and the average weekly requirement is rather more.

A scheme is now under consideration for the use of an unlimited local supply of water from a disused mine. The high degree of permanent hardness of this water has been experimentally reduced to 3.5 degrees Clark's scale and found to be highly suitable for domestic and trade purposes. It is absolutely free from organic impurities.

SEWAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.—I am indebted to the Borough Engineer for most of this information.

SEWAGE WORKS, SPA.—Places drained to Outfall. Area drained, 1,950 acres. Population drained, 9,000.

WATER CONSUMPTION.—Domestic, 80,821,217 gallons per annum; Trade, 57,786,000. Number of Water Closets, 1,017.

FLOW OF SEWAGE.—Daily volume (average dry weather flow), 807,400 gallons. Estimated by gaugings.

TRADE EFFLUENTS.—Proportionate volume, 631,400 gallons. Chiefly from dye-pans.

STORM WATER.—Combined system of sewerage. There are 4 storm overflows. Fixed weirs. Storm water purified in tanks.

OUTFALL WORKS AT HEALEY.—Area drained, 1,250 acres. Population drained, 4,000.

WATER CONSUMPTION.—Domestic and trade: No separate record.

FLOW OF SEWAGE.—Daily volume (average dry weather flow), 308,500 gallons. Estimated by gaugings.

TRADE EFFLUENTS.—Proportionate volume, 232,000 gallons. Chiefly from dye-pans.

STORM WATER.—Combined system. There are 4 storm overflows. Fixed weirs. Purified by land filtration.

NEW SEWERS.—The following were constructed during the year. All in connection with the Housing Schemes. 663 yards of 9-inch and 22 yards 6-inch.

POLLUTION OF RIVERS AND STREAMS.—The Authority exercising supervision is the West Riding Rivers Board. The result of frequent inspection during the year has been satisfactory. Means have generally been taken and adopted by manufacturers to prevent pollution. No complaints have been received.

CONVERSION OF EARTH CLOSETS TO WATER CLOSETS.—This remained in abeyance during the war. The matter of conversion is now being considered and considerable progress is expected next year.

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS.—There were 399 births notified during the year, as compared with 262 in 1920, giving a birth-rate of 25.4 per 1,000 per annum. Of these 23 were illegitimate. 15 still-births were brought to my notice. This is the highest yearly birth-rate ever recorded in the Borough. Of the children born 206 were males and 193 females.

DEATHS.—The deaths registered in the district were 207, giving a nett death-rate of 15.4 per 1,000 per annum. This is the lowest death-rate which I can trace during the last 47 years. 18 deaths occurred of residents outside the district. This gives a corrected death-rate of 14.7 per 1,000 per annum.

I herewith append the vital statistics for 1920 as compiled from the recently issued report of the Registrar-General.

Birth-rate, Death-rate, and Analysis of Mortality during the year 1920.

(Provisional figures. Provisional populations estimated to the middle of 1920 have been used for the purposes of this Table. The mortality rates refer to the whole population as regards England and Wales, but only to civilians as regards London and the groups of towns).

	BIRTH- RATE PER 1,000 TOTAL POPULA- TION.	ANNUAL DEATH-RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION.								RATE PER 1,000 BIRTHS.		PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL DEATHS.				
		All Causes.	Enteric Fever.	Small-pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Diphtheria.	Influenza.	Violence.	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 Years).	Total Deaths under One Year.	Deaths in Public Institutions.	Certified Causes of Death.	Inquest Cases.	Uncertified Causes of Death.
—																
England and Wales	25.4	12.4	0.01	0.00	0.19	0.04	0.11	0.15	0.28	.48	8.3	80	24.3	92.2	6.6	1.2
96 Great Towns, including London (Census Populations exceeding 50,000)	26.2	12.5	0.01	0.00	0.22	0.04	0.14	0.16	0.31	0.43	10.4	.85	31.3	92.2	7.1	0.7
148 Smaller Towns (Census Popula- tions 20,000—50,000)	24.9	11.3	0.02	0.00	0.19	0.03	0.10	0.14	0.27	0.38	7.8	80	16.5	93.2	5.3	1.5
London	26.5	12.4	0.01	0.00	0.22	0.05	0.17	0.22	0.30	0.47	9.5	75	46.8	91.2	8.6	0.2
OSSETT	25.4	13.4	0.06	0.00	0.45	0.00	0.00	0.19	0.06	0.26	0.0	83	8.6	94.2	5.7	0.4

INFANTILE MORTALITY.—Thirty-five deaths occurred in infants under 12 months, resulting in an infantile mortality of 83 per 1,000 births, a gratifying improvement in the figure for 1919, which was 111. The principal causes of infant death were premature birth, congenital debility and malformation. These accounted for 18 deaths. This number is much too high, and how to remedy this is the problem we have seriously to face during 1921. I still insist that many women go on working until the last few days of pregnancy and then jeopardise the chances of life of their child. A certain responsibility rests with employers in allowing known cases to remain at work. I take this opportunity to appeal to every responsible person to urge expectant mothers to attend the classes held periodically for pregnant women, where they will be instructed in the necessary precautions and preparation they should take and be guided in every possible way so as to assure the welfare of themselves and of the child they are about to bear.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES GENERALLY.—We have been remarkably free from epidemics during the year. Diphtheria headed the list, 47 cases being notified. The East and North wards accounted for 34 cases between them. Antitoxin has been supplied free of cost by the Sanitary Authority. The cases on the whole were of a severe type. This is partly attributable to late removal to hospital. I urge the importance of moving cases to hospital as soon as a diagnosis is made and not, as is often the case, until a positive result to a swab has been received. Isolation is carried out at the hospital until no doubt remains as to the occurrence of diphtheria.

Scarlet Fever accounted for 30 cases of a mild type, and occurred periodically over the district.

Four cases of Erysipelas were brought to my notice and two cases of Puerperal Fever, both the latter proving fatal. Investigation did not reveal any particular causes of infection.

There were 2 cases of Enteric Fever, both in the same family. Careful enquiries were made and although no possible causes were found the drains of the house were rebuilt and all sanitary arrangements thoroughly overhauled.

Bacteriological aid is readily available at the W. R. Analyst laboratories. Disinfection has been stringently carried out in all cases. Although not compulsory, removal of all cases of infectious diseases where complete isolation is not possible is strongly advised.

VACCINATION.—95 primary Vaccinations were done during the year and no re-vaccinations. The percentage of vaccinated children is very low and the existing prejudice against vaccination dies hard in the district. That this state of things is merely prejudice was very evident during the last epidemic of Smallpox, when the rush for vaccination was almost beyond being dealt with. The lesson which should then have been learnt was dearly bought in many cases. 127 exemptions were allowed during the year.

Of the non-notifiable infectious diseases, Measles was the most prevalent, but did not occur epidemically. Influenza was not prevalent, one death only was attributed to this.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.—A centre was established voluntarily in January, 1920. This came under Municipal control shortly afterwards. It is still co-operating with the voluntary Committee, which has been and is of the greatest value and help. The ladies concerned have been very unselfish in their assistance and the success of the scheme may be largely attributed to them. The premises occupied are situated at the Wesleyan Chapel Sunday School, and the Committees greatly appreciate the generosity of the trustees in allowing those varied rooms to be used for the weekly meetings of the Welfare. A weekly clinic is held and is to be elaborated in the near future. All records kept are automatically handed over to the Education Authority as soon as a child attains the age of 5, thus establishing co-operation between the Child Welfare and School Medical services.

Ante Natal work is the scheme of the next year, lectures given monthly to expectant mothers and visiting of pregnant women by the Nurse being special features.

An agreement has been arrived at with the Wakefield Maternity Hospital for admission of cases of difficult and complicated labour under control of M.O.H. Facilities have also been established for admission of patients at reduced fees according to income.

HOUSING.—Housing schemes have progressed satisfactorily in spite of shortage of labour and difficulties of obtaining materials. I append a report of work done during the year.

SCAVENGING AND REFUSE REMOVAL.—The work is now well in hand and has been generally satisfactory. The condition of the roads in the Borough has greatly improved.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

W. L. RENE WOOD,

Medical Officer of Health.

APPENDIX A.

TABLE C.

WATER SUPPLY—

Any developments during 1920?—No.

Any insufficiency, and where?—Generally a shortage if trade very good.

Any action in regard to unsatisfactory quality, and where?—No.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE—

Any developments during 1920?—No.

Developments still needed as to (a) Want of sewers?—No.

(b) Improvement of defective sewers?—No.

Any inadequacy of Sewage Disposal Works or complaints as to smells?—No.

Are there any sink wastes still needing disconnection?—No.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION—

No. of Privies with open middens.—10. No of Pail or Tub Closets.—2.

No. of Privies with covered middens.—1,391. No. of Water Closets, 1,016. Waste-water Closets.—80.

No. of Privies re-constructed during 1920—(a) as w.c.'s.—11
(b) Other.—None.

No. of additional Closets provided for old property in 1920—
(a) w.c.'s.—2. (b) Other.—None.

No. of Closets constructed in 1920 for new houses—(a)
w.c.'s.—12. (b) Other.—None.

SCAVENGING—

Any change during 1920?—No.

Performed by (a) Council.—The whole by direct labour. (b)
Contractor.—None.

How is refuse disposed of? No. of loads to (a) Destructor.—
2,725 tons 5 cwts. (b) Tips.—2,764 loads. (c) Farmers.
—689. Total annual cost.—£1,648 9s. 8d.

Is there any inadequacy, and where?—No.

Any utilization or salvage of waste material?—Sale of Scrap
Iron, Glass, etc. The provision of a Pulveriser for con-
verting into Manure under consideration.

NUISANCE INSPECTIONS—

Total No. of Inspections made in 1920.—1,689.

Informal Notices served.—103. Complied with.—101.

Statutory Notices served.—11. Complied with.—9.

Total No. of Nuisances in hand at close of 1919.—5. At close of 1920.—6.

Total No. of Nuisances reported during 1920.—405. Abated during 1920.—404.

Total No. of Summonses or other legal proceedings.—None.

Regulated Buildings, 'Trades, etc.	Total No.			General Condition.	Legal Pro- ceedings (if any)
	No. in Dis- trict.	No. on Regis- ter.	of In- spections made.		
Common Lodging Houses ...	0	0	0	—	—
Houses let in Lodgings ...	0	0	0	—	—
Canal Boats ...	0	0	0	—	—
Knackers' Yards ...	0	0	0	—	—
Tents, Vans and Sheds ...	0	0	0	—	—
Offensive Trades ...	10	10	124	Good	—

Have the Council declared any other processes to be offensive trades, e.g., Fish-frying, Maggot-breeding, etc.—None.

SCHOOLS—

Schools visited by M.O.H.—On several occasions.

Action taken.—None. Schools closed.—No.

MILK SUPPLY—

No. of samples taken by Officers of S.A. for analysis under F. and D. Acts.—None. No. adulterated.—No.

No. of samples taken by Officers of S.A. for bacteriological examination.—None.

What arrangement for Veterinary Inspection of dairy cows? —Called in when necessary.

Any instance of disease attributed to milk in 1920?—No.

No. of Cowkeepers in district.—34. No. Registered.—34.

No. of Milk Sellers who are also Cowkeepers.—31. No. who are Purveyors only.—3. Total No. Registered.—37.

Total No. of Cowsheds.—36. No. of Inspections in 1920.—217. General condition.—Good.

Approx. No. of Milch Cows in District.—300. Any insufficiency in Milk Supply?—Yes.

Legal proceedings under D.C.M. Orders.—None.

Any Inspection or other action by Districts to which Milk is sent?—No.

Milk (Mothers and Children) Order, 1919. Any action?—No.

OTHER FOODS—

No. of samples (other than Milk) taken by Officer of S.A. for examination under the Foods and Drugs Act.—6.
No. adulterated.—None.

No. of seizures of unsound food.—None. Kind and quality.—None. No. of Prosecutions.—None.

No. of Slaughter-houses.—13. No. Registered.—1. No. Unsatisfactory.—None.

No. of Prosecutions (a) Food and Drugs.—None. (b) Unsound Food.—None. (c) Re Slaughter-houses.—None. No. Bakehouses.—13. Is there a Public Abattoir?—No.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS—

Any Smoke nuisance, and where?—Not generally.

No. of Smoke observations taken.—51. No. of Cautions.—3. Legal Notices.—None. Summonses.—None.

ADOPTIVE ACTS—

Acts adopted during 1920.—None.

BYE-LAWS AND REGULATIONS—

Any Bye-Laws made under Section 26 of Housing and Town Planning Act, 1919, as to houses divided into separate tenements?—No.

Any other adopted or revised during 1920.—No.

Any relaxation of Bye-laws under Section 24 of Housing and Town Planning Act, 1919?—No.

Any other Bye-laws needed?—New M.O.H. Bye-laws as to Buildings and Slaughter-houses under consideration.

INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES—

What diseases have been specially prevalent in 1920?—Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever. State months.—January and February.

Any diseases specially added to notifiable list?—No.

Any influences threatening the health of the District?—No.

Any prevalence of Venereal Diseases?—A little.

TUBERCULOSIS—

- (1) Inspection of patient's home.—Numerous. (2) Examination for contacts.—In all cases. (3) Is house disinfected.—Yes. When?—(a) periodically; (b) when moved to Sanatorium; (c) after death. (4) Leaflets, Lectures, etc., distributed.—To all cases. (5) Action re spitting.—Pamphlets and flasks. (6) Is sputum examined apart from Dispensary?—Yes. (7) Any special procedure adopted in cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis with T.B. in sputum?—Tubercular dispensary. Sanatorium when possible. (8) Tuberculosis Dispensaries.—Any suggestions?—Satisfactory.

BACTERIOLOGY—

Is County Laboratory utilised?—Yes. Any suggestions?—Satisfactory.

INFANT MORTALITY—

What organised effort to control it?—Maternity and Child Welfare Centre. Health Visitor.

Any voluntary Centres for Child or Mother Welfare?—Yes. Centre under full Municipal and Voluntary control.

Causes of any excessive Infant Mortality in 1920.—Premature Birth principally.

Suggestions will be welcomed regarding (a) Maternity and Infant Welfare Schemes.—Further development, that is, more help for home visiting. (b) Ante-natal Schemes.—Lecturer. Visiting of expectant mothers by Nurse.

VITAL STATISTICS—

Births during 1920.—Males 206, Females 193; Total 399. No. illegitimate included in above 23. No. of Still Births (not included).—18.

Deaths during 1920.—(1) Gross Deaths, i.e., Total actually registered in the District without any correction.—189. (2) Nett Deaths on which the rates are calculated.—Males 107, Females 100.

No. of uncertified deaths (included above).—2.

MORTUARIES—

What Mortuary accommodation—(a) for accidents.—Yes. (b) For infectious cases other than at hospital.—No.

SANITARY STAFF—

What is the present Annual Salary of the M.O.H.?—£70.
 Name of Sanitary Inspector.—C. Firth.
 Annual Salary as Inspector.—£135.
 Other appointments held.—None.
 Salary for such other appointments.—None.
 Any Assistant?—No.
 Is Staff sufficient?—At present.

CLINICS—

Any Suggestions (a) Tuberculosis.—Wakefield. (b) Venereal Disease.—Wakefield, Dewsbury and Leeds. (c) Child Welfare.—A Centre established January, 1920. (d) Ante-Natal.—Lecturer. (e) School.—Yes.

ANY REMARKS as to—

- (a) Voluntary Agencies for social betterment.—None.
- (b) District Nursing Association.—Yes.
- (c) Any Hospital, other than Isolation (Cottage or Dispensary)?—No.
- (d) Health Visiting.—Yes.
- (e) School Nursing.—No.
- (f) Tuberculosis Nursing.—No.
- (g) Dental Nursing.—No.

SUPPLEMENTARY REMARKS as to Sanitary requirements of Districts, suggestions of M.O.H., and extended notes from any of the foregoing entries—

PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS—

Admission of cases to Sanatorium. Too great a delay. This is very detrimental in early cases.

MEASLES, NOTIFICATION—

This should be allowed by Ministry of Health. At present it cannot be carried out unless home nursing is available.

This is out of the question, for financial reasons, and the non-notification makes it impossible to deal with an epidemic effectively.

(Signed) W. L. RENE WOOD,

Medical Officer of Health.

TABLE I.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1920 and Previous Years.

Year.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	Births.			Total Deaths Registered in the District.		Transferable Deaths		Nett Deaths belonging to the District.			
		Uncor- rected Number.	Nett.		Number. 6	Rate. 7	of Non- residents registered in the District. 8	of Residents not registered in the District. 9	Under 1 Year of Age		At all Ages.	
			Number. 4	Rate. 5					Number. 10	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births. 11		
												Number. 12	Rate. 13
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1915	14,515		316	23·86	213	14·84		15	42	132	228	15·87
1916	14,345		315	21·95	210	14·63		17	32	101	227	15·82
1917	14,345		273	19·03	188	13·10		29	23	84	217	15·12
1918	14,345		268	18·06	233	15·17		20	27	100	253	17·06
1919	14,550		262	18·26	231	16·10		23	26	111	254	17·70
1920	14,081		399	25·40	207	13·40		18	35	83	223	15·82

Area of District in acres
(land and inland
water). 3200

Total population at all ages 14,081 } At Census of 1911.
Total families or separate occupiers 3,440 }

TABLE II.
CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1920.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.							TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY.				TOTAL CASES REMOVED TO HOSPITAL.
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.					North Ward.	East Ward.	West Ward.	Central Ward.		
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 45.					45 to 65.		65 and upwards.
Diphtheria (including Membranous croup) }	41		7	26	5	3		3	19	3	15	31
Erysipelas ..	5	2				3		1	1	2	1	
Scarlet fever :	20		3	14	2	1		8	3	3	6	14
Enteric Fever ..	2					1	1		2			2
Puerperal fever ..	2					2			1		1	
Malaria ..												
Totals ..	70	2	10	40	7	10	1	12	26	8	23	47

Isolation Hospital—Smallpox Hospital, Storrs Hill Road, Ossett. Total available beds 8.
Number of Diseases that can be concurrently treated—one.

TABLE III.

CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH DURING YEAR 1920.

DEATHS AT ALL AGES.					CAUSE OF DEATH.	ANALYSIS OF NETT DEATHS ACCORDING TO AGE.								
(a) Actually Registered in the District.				(b) Transferred to the District from outside.		Under 1.	1 and under 2.	2 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 45.	45 and under 65.	65 and over.	Totals.
Private Residents.	Inmates of Public Institutions.		Belonging to the District.												To be transferred away
Belonging to the District.	To be transferred away.	Belonging to the District.		To be transferred away										
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	
					Enteric Fever									
					Measles		2	4						6
					Whooping Cough ..									
		3		3	Diphtheria and croup									
		1		1	Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis) ..		2			1	3	7		13
					Tuberculous Meningitis ..	1	1		1					3
					Other tuberculous diseases				1			1		2
		2		2	Cancer, malignant disease					1	5	6		12
					Rheumatic Fever ..				1	1				2
		1		1	Meningitis ..	1				1				2
					Organic Heart Disease					1	4	8	15	28
					Bronchitis ..	1	1					4	6	12
1		3		4	Pneumonia (all forms)	2	6		3	2	2	2	2	19
					Other respiratory diseases						2		1	3
					Diarrhoea and Enteritis	5								5
		1		1	Appendicitis and Typhlitis									
1		3		4	Nephritis and Bright's Disease ..						6	7	1	14
					Other Acc. & Dis. of Pregnancy & Parturition	4					2			6
					Congenital Debility and Malformation including Premature Birth	22								22
					Violent Deaths (excluding Suicides) ..					1	1	2		4
					Suicides							1		1
		1		1	Other Defined Diseases	1		2			1	4	3	11
					Ill-defined or unknown Diseases ..							1	1	2
1				1	Apoplexy						1	5	6	12
					Old Age								10	10
3		15		18	TOTALS	35	12	6	8	6	24	47	51	189

TABLE IV.

INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1920.

DEATHS FROM STATED CAUSES IN WEEKS AND MONTHS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

CAUSES OF DEATH.		Under 1 Week.	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Total under 1 Month.	1-3 Months.	3-6 Months.	6-9 Months.	9-12 Months.	Total Deaths under One Year.
ALL CAUSES.	Certified ...										
	Uncertified ...										
Common Infectious Diseases.	Small-pox ...										
	Chicken-pox ...										
	Measles ...										
	Scarlet Fever ...										
	Whooping Cough ...										
	Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)										
	Erysipelas ...										
Tuberculous Diseases.	Tuberculous Meningitis ...								1		1
	Abdominal Tuberculosis ...										
	Other Tuberculous Diseases ...										
	Meningitis (not Tuberculous) ...						1				1
	Convulsions ...										
	Laryngitis ...										
	Bronchitis ...							1			1
	Pneumonia (all forms)						1		1		2
Diarrhœal Diseases.	Diarrhœa, all forms			1	1	2		2	1		5
	Enteritis (not Tuberculous) ...										
	Gastritis ...										
	Syphilis ...										
	Rickets ...										
	Suffocation, overlaying Atelectasis ...										
Wasting Diseases.	Injury at Birth ...										
	Congenital Malformations ...	3	1	1	1	6	2				8
	Premature Birth ..	9				9					9
	Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus ...	2	1			2					3
	Other Causes ...		1		1	2		1	2		5
TOTALS ...		14	3	2	3	21	4	4	5		35

Births in the year { legitimate ... 376
 { illegitimate... 23

Deaths in the year { legitimate infants ... 31

SUMMARY. OF STATISTICS, 1920.

Population at Census of 1911, 14,081.

Number of occupied houses at Census of 1911, 3,440.

Area of Borough (in acres), 3,200.

Density of Population (i.e., number of persons per acre), 5.7.

Number of Births—Males, 206.

Females, 193.

Illegitimate, 23.

Birth-rate per 1,000 living, 25.4.

Number of Deaths—Males, 107.

Females, 100.

Illegitimate, 5.

Death-rate per 1,000 living, 13.4.

Death-rate from seven principal Zymotic Diseases per 1,000 living, .7.

Phthisis Death-rate, 1.04.

Death-rate per 1,000 from other forms of Tubercular Diseases, .2.

Death-rate from all forms of Tubercular Diseases, including Phthisis, 1.04.

Death-rate from Respiratory Diseases other than Tuberculosis, 2.5.

Infantile Mortality per 1,000 Births, 83.

SUMMARY OF HOUSING WORK DURING 1920.

Table showing action under Sections 15, 17, and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1909, Section 28 of the 1919 Act, and the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, dated September 2nd, 1910, or matters arising therefrom.

Houses with defects not disposed of at end of 1919.					Action under (Section 15) 1919 or (Section 28) 1919.					Action under P.H. Acts in cases of houses with minor defects not remediable under (Section 28) 1919.				Action under (Section 17) 1909.										Appeals.				Houses with defects not disposed of at end of 1920.		
Houses not reasonably fit for human habitation, 1909, or (Section 28) 1919.	Houses totally unfit for human habitation, (Section 17) 1909.	Houses with minor defects. (Public Health Acts).			Houses found not reasonably fit for human habitation.	Houses for which notices were given to execute works.	Houses in respect of which notices were satisfactorily complied with.	Houses in respect of which the Local Authority executed or were executing works in default of landlord.	Houses in respect of which landlord elected to close house instead of complying with notices.	Houses found with defects.	Houses made fit after preliminary notice.	Houses in regard to which notices were served to remedy defects.	Houses made fit after notice.	Houses found to be totally unfit for habitation.	Houses represented to Local Authority as being totally unfit for human habitation.	Houses made fit for human habitation without the issue of a closing order.	Houses closed voluntarily.	Houses in respect of which closing orders were made.	Houses closed as unfit for human habitation after closing orders were made.	Houses made fit for human habitation after closing order was made, for which the Local Authority determined the order.	Houses demolished voluntarily.	Houses for which demolition orders were made.	Houses demolished compulsorily.	Appeals against notices under (Section 15) 1909, or (Section 28) 1919.	Appeals against closing orders under Section 17, 1909.	Appeals under Section 17 (6) 1909, refusing to determine closing orders.	Appeals against demolition orders Section 18 (2) 1919.	Houses not reasonably fit for human habitation, (Section 15) 1909, or (Section 28) 1919.	Houses with minor defects. (Public Health Acts.)	Houses totally unfit for human habitation. (Section 17) 1909.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
0	0	5	87	20	0	0	0	0	0	67	62	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0

OTHER ACTION IN REGARD TO HOUSING :—

Total number of houses in district.—3,826. Number of working-class houses.—3,462. General standard compared with that of the Ministry of Health in Manual

Vol. I., 1919.—Good.

Obstructive Buildings.—Any building represented by M.O.H. under Sec. 38 (1) of 1890 Act?—No.

Result of action (if any).—None.

Any building represented by Inhabitant Householders under Sec. 38 (2) of 1890 Act?—No.

Unhealthy Areas.—Any representations under part I or II. of the 1890 Act? If so, give particulars.—No.

Re-construction Scheme.—Have L.A. directed any to be prepared under Sec. 39 of 1890 Act?—No.

Conversion of Houses.—Any houses required for division into separate tenements, under the 1919 Act? If so, give particulars.—

Unfit Houses.—Any complaints by Inhabitant Householders under Sec. 31 of 1890 Act?—No.

Do. Any complaints by Parish Council under Sec. 6 (2) of the Local Government Act, 1894?—No.

Any action by Public Utility Societies?—No.

Any action under Small Dwellings Acquisition Act, 1899?—No.

Any scarcity of houses, if so, where?—All available houses occupied. Some demand for houses at low rentals.

Any overcrowding of persons in houses, and where?—Not generally. A few isolated cases.

No. of cases of overcrowding dealt with during 1920.—2.

Any special activity in house building, and where?—Under new housing schemes.

Have the Council promoted, or assisted any public Utility Society in their district?—No.

Number of new Houses built during 1920 by private enterprise. (a) Working-class dwellings.— (b) Other.—4.

State-aided Housing Schemes.—Has Scheme been submitted as required by Section 1 of 1919 Act.—Yes. Estimated need for 200 houses. Scheme for 200 houses.

SITES.				LAY-OUTS.		HOUSE PLANS.				TENDERS.				Works commenced.		Houses occupied.	
Applications submitted.		Applications approved.		Submitted.	Approved.	Submitted.		Approved.		Submitted.		Approved.					
No.	Acreage.	No.	Acreage.	No.	No.	No. of Houses.		No. of Houses.		No. of Houses.		No. of Houses.		No. of Houses.		No. of Houses.	
						Scullery.	Parlour.	Scullery.	Parlour.	Scullery.	Parlour.	Scullery.	Parlour.	Scullery.	Parlour.	Scullery.	Parlour.
5	17,550	4	14,882	4	3	60	51	42	35	60	51	42	35	42	35	8	8

Any houses built by private enterprise under State Aided Housing Scheme? If so, give No. and type built.—1, “ Parlour ” type.

Any regulations made in respect of underground sleeping rooms under (Sec. 17, 7) 1909 Act?—No. Any action thereunder?—No.

Town Planning:—Any scheme prepared during 1920. If so, give details.—No.

Any scheme contemplated? If so, for what area?—No.

Name and Address of Officer designated to make inspections under Article II. of Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910?—C. Firth, Town Hall, Ossett.

Signed, W. L. RENE WOOD, Medical Officer of Health.

23rd May, 1921.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S SIXTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS,

I have pleasure in submitting my sixteenth Annual Report.

The year 1920 did not give us the economic relief which many hoped and expected to see in the matters connected with Sanitary Improvements. Material was still scarce and costly, and during the earlier part labour was also scarce and during the whole period costly. The extremely high cost of even minor repairs is a serious hindrance to progress in the graver Sanitary matters, such as the conversion of privies, paving of yards, etc. During 1921 these matters must be carefully considered as we must progress. Where, as in Ossett, property is in small ownership, in many cases, even in the case of willing owners it is extremely difficult to find the necessary capital for extensive alterations. Some provision has now, however, been made in the Rent Restrictions Acts, and at the time of writing there are distinct signs of falling costs and an easier supply of material in every direction. We can therefore look forward with every confidence to a greater activity during the year to come, with its consequent improvements to our town.

HOUSE REFUSE REMOVAL AND DISPOSAL.

The direct method of carrying out this work is still proving an infinitely superior method to our former contract system. The cost still appears high, but the increase over last year is almost solely accounted for by the increase of wages. A further £250 has been paid off Capital expenditure, and this is the final payment. Thus in two years we are in possession of all our teams and material with no outstanding capital charges, and we can look forward to increased efficiency at a reduced cost.

REMOVAL.

	£	s.	d.
Team Labour—			
Wages and Bonus	692	1	6
Manual Labour—			
Wages and Bonus	329	13	7
	<hr/>		
	£1,021	15	1
	<hr/>		
Cost of Stables—			
Provender	439	6	6
Blacksmiths' Work	52	1	2
Cart and Harness Repairs	38	13	7
Veterinary Surgeon and Sundries	14	0	3
Cart Covers	25	4	0
Rates, etc.	7	18	5
	<hr/>		
	£577	3	11
Hired Team Labour	49	10	8
	<hr/>		
	£626	14	7
	<hr/>		
Total	1648	9	8
Proportion of Capital Charges	250	0	0
	<hr/>		
	£1898	9	8
	<hr/>		
Total number of Ashpits and Bins emptied	11083		
	Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.
Weight of Refuse to the Destructor	2725	5	0
Number of loads to Tips	2764		
Number of loads to Land	689		
Total Refuse removed (allowing 1 ton for each load to Tip or Land)	6178	5	0
	<hr/>		
Average weight per load to Destructor, $22\frac{1}{3}$ cwts.			
Cost per ton delivered at Destructor, Land or Tips			
		s.	d.
(Team and Manual Labour)		3	$3\frac{1}{2}$

DISPOSAL.

Cost of Destructor—

Stokers' Wages	...	...	...	...	...	582	16	0
Weighing	...	...	...	...	...	37	0	0
							<hr/>	
							£619	16 0
War Bonus to Stokers and Weigh Clerk	...	...	...	...	...	200	1	6
							<hr/>	
							£819	17 6
							<hr/>	

							s.	d.
Gross cost per ton destroying	..	...	...	...	...	5	7½	
Gross cost per ton destroying (exclusive of war bonus)						4	3	
Nett cost per ton destroying (i.e., deducting workmen's wages during the time destructor was set down and including bonus)	...	...	...	...	...	4	4½	

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	...	...	3826
Privies	...	...	...	...	...	1401
Pail Closets	...	...	...	...	...	2
Water Closets (with Cisterns)	...	...	..			1016
Automatic Fresh-water Closets	...	...	...			26
Waste-water Closets	...	...	...	...		80
						<hr/>
						2525
						<hr/>
Privy Middens	...	...	...	...	...	596
Dry Ashpits	...	...	...	...	...	308
Ashbins	...	...	...	...	...	311
						<hr/>
						1215
						<hr/>

The above accommodation is for houses only and does not include schools, factories, public buildings, etc.

GENERAL.

Legal Notices Served ...	...	...	...	...	11
Informal Notices Served ...	...	...	...	...	103

DETAILED LIST OF NUISANCES ABATED.

Privies converted to W.C:s ...	...	...	...	...	11
Additional W.C.s provided ...	...	...	...	...	2
Privy-middens converted to Dry Ashpits or Bins ...	...	...	...	...	4
Privies or W.C.s repaired ...	...	...	...	...	47
Urinals cleansed or reconstructed ...	...	...	...	...	8
Ashpits and Bins provided ...	...	...	...	...	31
Ashpits reconstructed or repaired ...	...	...	...	...	13
Houses redrained ...	...	...	...	...	31
Drains repaired or ventilated ...	...	...	...	...	25
Drains cleared ...	...	...	...	...	67
Overcrowding ...	...	...	...	...	2
Defective eaves and fall pipes repaired ...	...	...	...	...	54
Defective roofs ...	...	...	...	...	23
Premises Limewashed ...	...	...	...	...	12
Offensive Accumulations removed ...	...	...	...	...	13
Nuisances in Workshops ...	...	...	...	...	21
Defective sink pipes repaired ...	...	...	...	...	24
Other Nuisances ...	...	...	...	...	16

 404

HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING.

Pleasing progress is being made in the provision of houses under the Ministry of Health's Housing Scheme. At the end of the year 8 houses of the scullery type were occupied. At the time of writing others were also occupied, and there is every prospect of a steady succession of houses being ready for occupation. Unfortunately, the high cost of building has temporarily checked the schemes which have not already received official

sanction; but the signs point to reduced cost, when I anticipate the completion of the whole of the council's scheme.

Another notable feature is that for the first time in several years progress has been shewn in private building, four houses having been erected and one in course of erection at the close of the year. These are not of a working-class type.

As mentioned in opening my report, the advance in the improvement of existing houses has not been as marked as one could desire. However, some advance has been effected, and we can now expect that this phase of sanitary administration will proceed in a constantly progressive manner.

SMOKE.

During the year I took 51 observations, each of one hour, of various factory chimneys.

Whilst some improvement might still be effected there are no general complaints, and where necessary cautions have been given, and improvement has been effected.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

We have now 13 slaughter-houses. These are all good structurally and kept in a very cleanly condition. For some time only one of these was in use, but on the completion of the food restrictions they have again come into use. Since being in use 121 visits have been made. No meat has been condemned, but about 2 cwts. have been voluntarily surrendered.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

We have now 10 premises sanctioned for offensive trades; the occupiers use care, and no action has been necessary.

DISINFECTIONS.

The following houses have been disinfected after the existence of infectious disease:—

Scarlet fever, 17; Enteric fever, 2; Diphtheria, 39; Consumption, 25.

Five houses have been disinfected owing to other causes. Schools have been disinfected on 6 occasions.

COWSHEDS.

There has been no alteration in the number of cowsheds. These are periodically visited and on the whole kept in a very clean condition.

FOODS AND DRUGS.

6 samples were submitted for analysis, all of which were reported on as genuine.

CONTAGIOUS DISEASES OF ANIMALS.

We have again been free from any outbreak of disease in cattle.

HOSPITAL.

For 16 years we have escaped any outbreak of smallpox, so that our hospital has not been used. It is, however, kept in constant readiness, and at the time of writing repairs and painting are almost complete.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

CHARLES FIRTH.